In 1995 I retired from broadcasting, exhibiting and writing about radio on stamps. There just weren't enough hours in the day. I needed more time for my family and a new career as a classroom teacher.

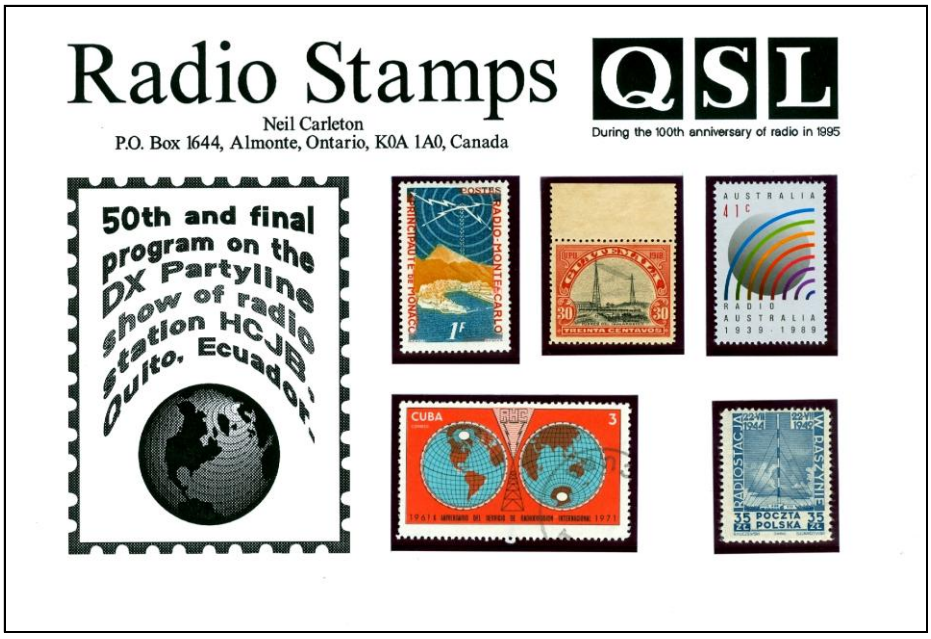
Radio Stamps

Neil Carleton … 5 May 2025

BROADCASTING

For five years my monthly ***Radio Stamps*** program was heard on the DX Partyline show of radio station HCJB, in Ecuador, which was broadcast around the world on shortwave. It combined the fun of listening to international radio and collecting stamps from around the world.

Regular features on my 50 programs included collecting tips, contests, descriptions of stamps, and discussions of radio subjects that could be found on commemorative stamps and postal cancellations. Letters, postcards, and e-mails arrived from listeners in 28 countries.

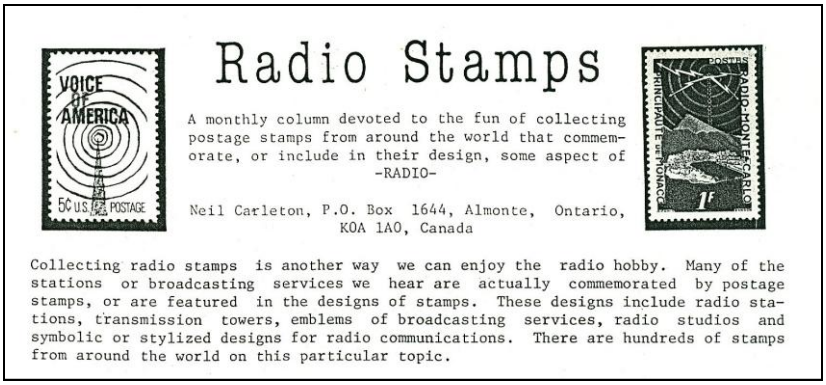


… for my 50th program I prepared a special QSL card …

WRITING

From October 1986 to March 1991 my illustrated monthly column ***Radio Stamps*** was published in the ***Messenger***, the monthly bulletin of the Canadian International DX Club. I also wrote articles over a dozen years about radio on stamps for:

DX Ontario, the monthly magazine of the Ontario DX Association;
The Journal, the monthly digest of the North American Shortwave Association;
Topical Time, the bi-monthly journal of the American Topical Association.



Radio Stamps

A monthly column devoted to the fun of collecting postage stamps from around the world that commemorate, or include in their design, some aspect of -RADIO-

Neil Carleton, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, Ontario, K0A 1A0, Canada

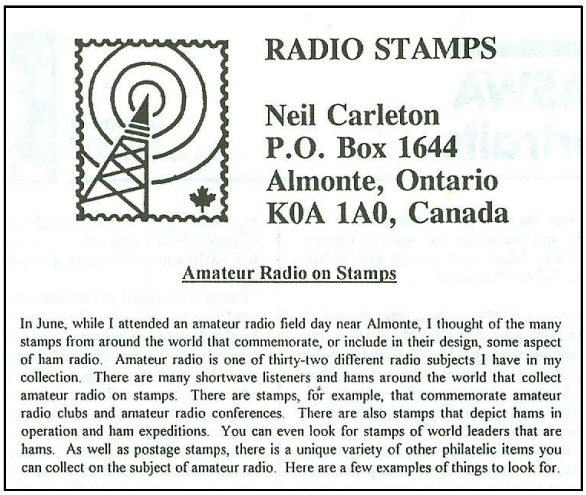
Collecting radio stamps is another way we can enjoy the radio hobby. Many of the stations or broadcasting services we hear are actually commemorated by postage stamps, or are featured in the designs of stamps. These designs include radio stations, transmission towers, emblems of broadcasting services, radio studios and symbolic or stylized designs for radio communications. There are hundreds of stamps from around the world on this particular topic.

DX ONTARIO

VOLUME 12 | EDITION 138 | DECEMBER 1986

Monitoring The World Via Radio !

COLLECTING RADIO STAMPS



RADIO STAMPS

Neil Carleton
P.O. Box 1644
Almonte, Ontario
K0A 1A0, Canada

Amateur Radio on Stamps

In June, while I attended an amateur radio field day near Almonte, I thought of the many stamps from around the world that commemorate, or include in their design, some aspect of ham radio. Amateur radio is one of thirty-two different radio subjects I have in my collection. There are many shortwave listeners and hams around the world that collect amateur radio on stamps. There are stamps, for example, that commemorate amateur radio clubs and amateur radio conferences. There are also stamps that depict hams in operation and ham expeditions. You can even look for stamps of world leaders that are hams. As well as postage stamps, there is a unique variety of other philatelic items you can collect on the subject of amateur radio. Here are a few examples of things to look for.

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1985 17

Radio history (left) equipment (center), and amateur radio (right).

Shortwave Listening and Radio Stamps

By Neil Carleton

Soon after I discovered shortwave listening in 1980, I also discovered the fascinating world of radio on postage stamps. I've been an active shortwave listener and a collector of radio stamps ever since, and they've always seemed like a natural combination of hobby interests.

novice like myself. I soon discovered, however, that radio stamps was a very specialized area of topical collecting and little information had been published or available on the subject.

Over the past four years I've been able to continue my research and locate

COLLECTING

My collecting interests on 30 radio topics included postage stamps + meter stamps + souvenir sheets + postal cancellations + postal stationery + local post + postally used covers.

1 precursors
2 patron saint
3 inventors and pioneers
4 magnetic field and ionosphere
5 time zones
6 radio telegraphy
7 morse code
8 radios
9 headphones
10 speakers
11 microsphones
12 tubes and circuits
13 radio studios
14 radio at sea
15 radio in the air
16 radio in the arctic and Antarctic
17 fixed radio links
18 mobile radio
19 radio and meterorology
20 radio at war
21 INTERPOL
22 radio and medicine
23 longitude determination by radio
24 amateur radio
25 radio exhibitions
26 the radio revolution
27 radio conferences, events, organizations
28 radio trade union congresses
29 EKKO stamps
30 radio towers / waves / symbols

amateur radio

radio stations

Listening To Radio

In 2006, to celebrate the centennial of radio broadcasting, I prepared a 95 page display collection on the topic of ***Listening To Radio***. Included were postage stamps, meter stamps, radio license fee stamps, postal cancellations, advertising envelopes, verification of reception cards, and audience reply cards. It was organized in 9 sections with explanatory / historical text.

Radio Listening - Early Years - What's On Tonight? - In Other Countries - Listening License
Distant Signals - From Coast to Coast - Listening Clubs - BBC Monitoring

LISTENING TO RADIO
GONDOZÁS
MAGYAR KIRPOSTA
St.Helena
25 ГОДИНИ
1942
1967
БЪЛГАРИЯ-BULGARIA
ROYAUME DU LAOS
LA RADIO AUX AVEUGLES
20TH ANNIVERSARY RADIO ELWA
1954
1974
ELWA
LIBERIA 15c
In 2006, the 100th anniversary year of radio, millions of people each day listen to radio for entertainment and education, or as a source of news from close to home and around the world. It's not surprising that radio listening has been featured on postage stamps over the years with a wide variety of designs.

partial page from Listening to Radio

samples of many postal cancellations from Listening to Radio

Radio In The Mail

A second collection was prepared on the topic of ***Radio In The Mail***. Since the early days of broadcasting, there has been a special relationship through the mail between radio stations and their audiences. Listeners have been writing to radio stations for nearly a century with reception reports, program comments, questions, and requests. Radio stations have replied over the years with verification stamps, audience response cards, promotional stamps, and verification of reception cards. On the mail of listeners and stations alike has been a wide range of postage stamps, meter stamps, and postal cancellations that commemorate, or include in their design, radio stations and broadcasting services. Organized alphabetically in 566 pages, 8 volumes, from Afars and Issas to Zambia, with explanatory / historical text, covering 172 radio and postal countries past and present.

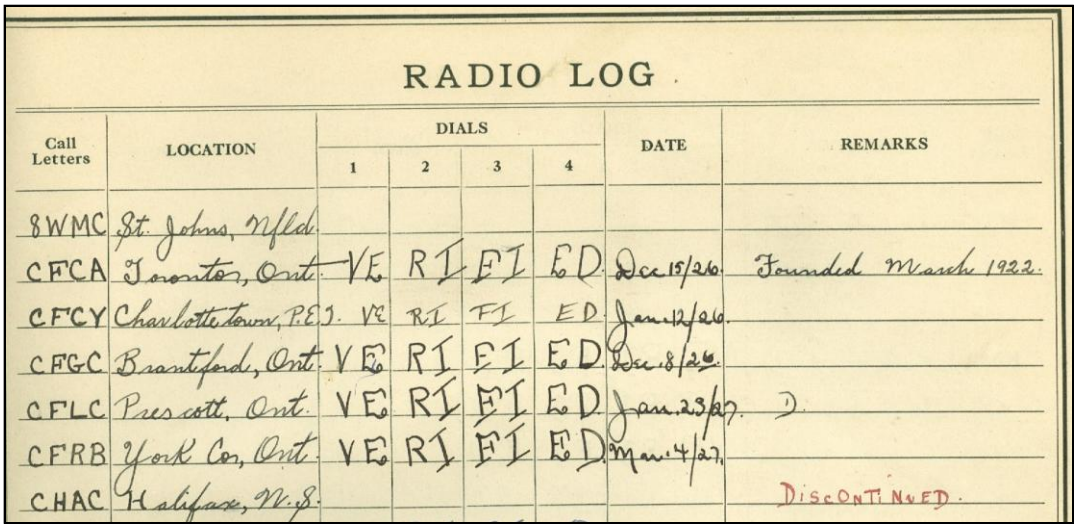
The first broadcast of Radio Monte Carlo in Monaco was made in 1942. In 1951, a set of three commemorative postage stamps was issued by Monaco to recognize Radio Monte Carlo with its transmitters located near Mount Angel. Today, Radio Monte Carlo is the name of two radio stations which broadcast in French and Italian in France, Monaco and Italy.

partial page from Radio in the Mail

EKKO Broadcasting Station Stamp Album

One of the gems in my collection was a 1924 album of verified reception stamps … 106 pages … EKKO Company of Chicago … with spaces for stamps from every broadcasting station in the United States and Canada. It contained 310 U.S + 32 Canada + 1 Mexico + 1 New Zealand = 344 EKKO stamps mounted with stamp hinges.

half page from EKKO Broadcasting Station Stamp Album



RADIO LOG

Call Letters	LOCATION	DIALS 1	2	3	4	DATE	REMARKS
8WMC	St. Johns, Nfld.						
CFCA	Toronto, Ont.	VE	RI	FI	ED	Dec 15/26	Founded March 1922.
CFCY	Charlottetown, P.E.I.	VE	RI	FI	ED	Jan. 12/26	
CFGC	Brantford, Ont.	VE	RI	FI	ED	Dec. 8/26	
CFLC	Prescott, Ont.	VE	RI	FI	ED	Jan. 23/27	D.
CFRB	York Co, Ont.	VE	RI	FI	ED	Mar. 4/27	
CHAC	Halifax, N.S.						DISCONTINUED.

partial page from EKKO Broadcasting Station Stamp Album

Verification of Reception Stamps

Additional pages of my collection were devoted to other kinds of QSL stamps … certified reception / verification / program / confirmed reception / reception verified / etc.

EKKO STAMPS
CNRV
VERIFIED RECEPTION STAMP
KFI
RECEPTION VERIFIED
Earle C. Anthony, Inc.
LOS ANGELES
KFCB
VERIFIED RECEPTION STAMP
Many years ago radio stations in Canada, the U.S.A. and other countries issued a "verification reception stamp", or EKKO stamp, with their QSL card or letter. These colourful stamps were distributed to stations

partial pages from Verification of Reception Stamps

Adventist World Radio QSL Stamps

Individual stamps, full sheets, proof plates (only known surviving samples), QSL certificates, and 1986-96 correspondence with AWR personnel about the history of the organization's QSL stamps.

partial full sheet from Adventist World Radio QSL Stamps

partial proof sheet from Adventist World Radio QSL Stamps